

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-14 are pending and stand rejected. Claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to for not showing the stopper recited in Claim 2 or the interaction of the stopper with the linear guide in Claim 12. It is respectfully submitted that a stopper, or stop, is illustrated in a non-limiting exemplary embodiment at least at Fig. 3, feature number 73. Further, it is respectfully submitted that a linear guide is illustrated in a non-limiting exemplary embodiment at least at Fig. 3, feature number 72. Applicants respectfully note the corresponding text at page 6 of the specification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Anticipation Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 10, and 12-13 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,049,151 (“Suzuki”). Claims 1-3 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,157,103 (“Ohta”). For the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejections.

As amended, Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “a motor housing including a *single* injection molded part.” In a non-limiting exemplary embodiment, Fig. 3 illustrates an injection molded part 70 which directly forms the motor housing of the electric motor 40 (specification at page 6).

Suzuki does not disclose nor suggest at least a housing made from an injection molded part, much less a motor housing including “a single injection molded part” as recited in Claim 1. Further, Fig. 2 of Suzuki shows a housing made from two separate and distinct parts: a stator housing 11 and a cover 12. Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest a motor housing including “a single injection molded part.” For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Suzuki.

As amended, Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “a linear guide is integrated with the injection molded part of the motor housing, the linear guide configured to accommodate and guide a threaded shank.” In a non-limiting exemplary embodiment, Fig. 3 illustrates a linear guide 72

integrated into the motor housing 70 to position and guide a threaded shank 56 (specification at page 6).

At Fig. 1, Ohta shows motor case 3, stator 4 inside the motor case 3, and rotor 42 (col. 5, ll. 11-18). The stator 4 is partially embedded in the injection molded case 3 (Figs. 1, 9). A guide 44 (Figs. 3 and 6), including an inner cylindrical section 58 and an outer cylindrical section 59, guides the axial movement of a holder 45 (Fig. 1; See also, col. 6, ll. 8-10). As clearly illustrated in Fig. 1 of Ohta, the outer cylindrical section 59 is *not integrated* with the motor case 3. Instead, the outer cylindrical section 59 is a separate component from the motor housing. Thus, Ohta does not anticipate Claim 1 which recites: “a linear guide is *integrated* with the injection molded part of the motor housing” (emphasis added). For at least this reason, Claim 1 is patentable over Ohta.

Each of dependent Claims 2-6, 10 and 12-13 depends from Claim 1 and is considered patentable over Suzuki and Ohta at least by the virtue of its dependence. Accordingly, additional reasons for patentability of Claims 2-6, 10 and 12-13 will not be proffered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection over Suzuki and Ohta are respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejections

Claims 8 and 14 stand rejected as allegedly obvious over Ohta in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,621,312 (“Palmero”). Claim 9 stands rejected as allegedly obvious over Ohta in view of Palmero and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,742,989 (“Akagi”). For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully requested these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, a rotor hub including “an injection molded part within which the rotor is fixed,” the injection molded part of the rotor hub having “an inner thread which interacts with an outer thread of the threaded shank.” It is respectfully submitted that Ohta and Palermo fail to teach or suggest at least this feature recited in Claim 8.

Ohta describes a slidable holder 45 including an internal thread portion 65 threadably engaged with a threaded portion 53 of an actuating shaft assembly 43 (Abstract, Col. 6, ll. 25-35). The holder 45 of Ohta is not an injection molded part within which the rotor 42 is fixed. Instead, the rotor 42 of Ohta is separated from the holder 45 by an impact portion of a cylindrical sleeve 46. Accordingly, Ohta does not teach or suggest at least a rotor hub including “an

injection molded part within which the rotor is fixed, and the injection molded part of the rotor hub [having] an inner thread which interacts with an outer thread of the threaded shank.”

Palermo describes a stepping motor having a minimum of eight stator poles formed with teeth and a rotor having teeth with the effective pitches of the teeth being different to provide a three-tooth differential between the teeth (Abstract). Palermo does not remedy the noted deficiencies of Ohta.

Accordingly, the asserted combination of Ohta and Palermo fails to teach Claim 8. It is respectfully requested that the obviousness rejections of Claim 8 be withdrawn. Dependent Claims 9 and 14 are further considered allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 8.

CONCLUSION

There are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interest of brevity. Applicant respectfully request a notice of allowance.

Although an extension of time is not deemed appropriate, the Office is hereby requested to grant an extension to maintain the application pending and charge the extension fees against Deposit Account No. 04-1679 to Duane Morris LLP.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any issue relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark C. Comtois', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Comtois Reg. No. 46,285

DUANE MORRIS LLP
1667 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 776-7800
Facsimile: (202) 776-7801

Dated: February 12, 2007